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**Subject:** Exide cleanup could be one of nation's largest - Greenwire

## Exide cleanup could be one of nation's largest

**Published: Wednesday, August 19, 2015 - Greenwire**

Removing lead-contaminated soil from thousands of homes near a former Vernon, Calif., battery recycling plant would be the largest cleanup of its kind ever attempted in the state and one of the largest on record nationally, experts say.

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control said last week soil testing shows decades of air emissions from the former Exide Technologies battery plant deposited toxic dust across as many as 10,000 homes, far more than previously thought.

"It is safe to say that no lead cleanup of neighborhoods in California involving DTSC has approached the number of potential properties that could be involved in this case," department spokesman Sandy Nax said.

The department's finding that the cleanup may be larger stems from a new study that took samples from 146 homes in a bid to predict where elevated lead levels may be present.

Community groups say the large scope of the cleanup should prompt state lawmakers to make the work a top priority, including by stepping up by appropriating cleanup funds. A large cleanup of a former lead smelter in Omaha, Neb., has stretched on for more than a decade at a cost of more than \$300 million (Tony Barboza, *Los Angeles Times*, Aug. 18). – **SP**

**Link to LA Times article:** <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-exide-cleanup-20150817-story.html>

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